

ECC Meeting Minutes – 05/15/05
EAST COURSE COMBINE MEETING
Saturday May 15, 2005 (Location: Sandberg Middle School)

ECC President John Godinez called the meeting to order at 15:10.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Bonita
2. Freeway
3. La Puente

4. San Gabriel Valley
5. Santa Anita
6. Palm Springs

Absent:

1. Pomona

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING: Kristin Swift-Ramirez read the meeting minutes from the 03/05/05 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Kathy Bagu with a second from Lolo Ramirez and the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kathy Bagu read the financial report. Kathy reported a balance of \$4,363.15 in the combine account as of 05/15/05. The report is as follows:

Balance from 03/05/05	\$3861.28
Deposits	\$6620.00
Expenses:	
Battery for trailer	\$ 53.55
George Chevrolet (trailer repairs)	\$ 38.50
OB Conveyer cost	\$5386.00
Sonny Cangiarella (reports)	\$ 600.00
Cage clips for wire bottoms	\$ 37.36
Bank Charge (March & April)	\$ 32.00
Adjustment for math error	<u>\$ 8.08</u>
Balance in Account:	\$4325.79

A motion to accept the financial report was made by Charlie Cathel with a second from Lolo Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CRATE BOTTOMS:

Kathy Bagu gave an update on the progress of the new crate bottoms for the trailer. Kathy informed The Combine that the plastic coated wire is not going to be used for two reasons: 1) the cost is too high 2) the wire only comes in 1x1 which would be a potential hazard to the birds getting their feet stuck. The bottoms will be made of the previous wire ½ x 1. The bottoms will be a 3-piece hinge style, with the bottom wires professionally bent. The cost looks to be under \$10 per crate and the combine is having 125 wire bottoms made so there will be some extras if needed in the future. The turn around time for the wire bottoms to be done is about one month. The bottoms should be done and able to use by the YB 05 season.

NEW BUSINESS

2005 YOUNG BIRD RACE SCHEDULE:

Clubs were asked a few weeks ago by email to bring 2005 Young Bird race schedule proposals. FWY, BON, and SGV all provided proposals. After discussing each clubs proposals the combine unanimously declined them all and came up with a schedule that everyone gave input and agreed upon. The 2005 Young Bird schedule is as follows:

<u>RACE DATE</u>	<u>STATION</u>	<u>MILES</u>
10/09/05	Hayfield (Trainer)	135
10/16/05	Chuckwalla	160
10/23/05	Wileys Well	180
10/30/05	Ehrenberg	200
11/06/05	Hope	245
11/13/05	Chuckwalla 2	160
11/20/05	Aguila	275
11/27/05	No Race (Thanksgiving)	
12/04/05	Wickenburg(1 day race)	300
12/11/05	No Race	
12/18/05	Mesa	365

A motion was made by Lolo Ramirez to accept the above schedule with a second from Charlie Cathel. The motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Sonny Cangiarella sent out a proposal in regards to a one time a year membership fee. Sonny was not in attendance to present this proposal, but it had been sent out by email to the combine weeks earlier. John Godinez asked all clubs present if they had a chance to review this proposal with their respective clubs and were they ready to vote. All clubs present said they were prepared to vote. After a lengthy discussion Kristin Swift-Ramirez made a motion to decline Sonny's proposal with a second made by Lyle Loomis. The clubs voted as follows: BON – No, SGV – No, PS – No, LAP – No, the FWY & SA clubs representatives were split 1 Yes and 1 No each. The proposal was declined.

Ron Whitmer presented a revised proposal from Sonny's. He stated that the FWY club could not come to a single agreement on the membership dues proposal so he was presenting his. After a bit of discussion it was stated that Ron would make some additional changes to his proposal and email it out to clubs for further discussion. The discussion on this topic was tabled at this time.

RACE SECRETARY FINAL REPORT:

Sonny was not present, but he sent a copy of his recommendations of what needs to be done before the Young Bird 2005 season starts. They are as follows:

Club Information:

1. Santa Anita needs to get a new printer ribbon, paperwork is hard to read
2. Bonita club's database needs to be cleaned up. A lot of non-AU members in it.
3. Point system needs to be evaluated and discussed.

Young Birds:

1. Winspeed has a new software update that each club needs to get by the start of YB 05.
2. Unikon also has a new software update which those clubs will need to have by YB 05.
3. A complete new database for each club needs to be generated and handed out before YB 05.
4. Advise all clubs to use a sheet that records bird numbers to specific crates at shipping and include a copy of this sheet with their club entry sheets for the Race Secretary each week.

Trailer:

1. Needs to be cleaned inside and out
2. Water tanks need to be evaluated. Left tank seems to be leaking.
3. Trailer clearance lights need to be fixed, one vent fan in the roof does not work, harness for the trailer hookup needs to be redone, the brakes need to be evaluated and repaired if deemed necessary.
4. All latches on the crates need to be replaced. Need new screws and locking nuts to install before YB 05.
5. Wire bottoms need to be replaced before YB 05.
6. Need to find a storage place for the trailer.

Sonny also made the recommendation to have an ad placed in the Penny Saver for possible additional bid for a conveyer. It would be better to have more than one in case anything happens, the combine would have a backup. The combine needs to go over this list more thoroughly and follow up to make sure items get done.

AVERAGE SPEED:

Kristin Swift-Ramirez brought up an issue in regards to the Average Speed Report. This report had been done in the past and was omitted in the Old Bird 05 season. It was stated that the combine didn't recognize Average Speed and that Urban had just included the report on his own. Charlie Cathel made a motion to have the Average Speed Report be included from now on in the reports generated for both Young and Old birds. Ron Whitmer made the second and the motion passed unanimously.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2005-2006 ECC OFFICERS:

New officers for the combine will be voted on at the June meeting. John Godinez asked if there were any nominations to be made at this time. Kristin Swift-Ramirez was nominated for President, she accepted. Lyle Loomis was nominated for Vice President, he accepted, Steve Whitmer was nominated for Recording Secretary, he accepted. Lolo Ramirez was nominated for Race Secretary, he accepted. Kathy Bagu was nominated for Treasurer, she accepted. Clubs need to select their new ECC

representatives or approve their existing representatives. From those representative nominations can made from the floor at the June meeting to run for the above positions and an election will be held.

OPEN FORUM:

Lyle Loomis wanted an explanation as to why the Palm Springs club was disqualified from the April 3rd, 2005 Hope race. He felt it was not explained well to him at the time. Ron Whitmer stated that from his understanding, the reason why the Palm Springs club got disqualified was because they could not determine what birds were actually in the crate that was accidentally released at the training location. Since Palm Springs did not record the birds to the specific crate, the club was disqualified. There was some further discussion and Lyle felt better informed.

Steve Whitmer brought up an idea to discuss in regards to the Old Bird cost and schedule. The Old Bird season seems to always be so expensive, which is due in part to the race schedules that the combine approves. Steve suggested looking into less races and flying every other week.

Charlie Cathel brought up the fact that Aguila has a different Longitude and Latitude but the mileage did not change. He wanted to know the reasoning behind that. There was a discussion on this issue to try to explain this.

Kathy Bagu brought up an issue of one of the Bonita members in regards to the fees charged per team. This member was curious if a flyer pays full price for their first team of 30 but does not have a full 2nd team could there be a way of flying these extra pigeons at a per bird basis rather than having to pay the full 30 bird team price. There wasn't much discussion made at this time on this issue.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next meeting for the ECC was set for June 5th, 2005 at 3:00pm. The location of the meeting will be at the Sandberg Middle School. This is an OPEN meeting, which means ALL members of the East Course Combine are invited to attend. If you have never seen what goes on in a combine meeting or are just curious, take this opportunity to see how every clubs input helps make this combine work. Please contact John Godinez with any topics or issues that your clubs want discussed at the Combine level.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alex Galustian with a second by Lolo Ramirez. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 17:25.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristin Swift-Ramirez/ECC Recording Secretary